

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Introduction:

Claims 1 and 48 are amended herein. Claims 29-47 are withdrawn from consideration.

II. Election/Restrictions:

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-28 and 48-51) without traverse.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103:

Claims 1-5, 9, 12-14, 23, 27, 28, and 48-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,468,410 (Donne).

Claims 1 and 48 are directed to systems for preparing electrochemical material comprising a high temperature synthesis device for preparing an array of electrochemical materials as electrolytic surfaces of working electrodes. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that a mask of the device has a plurality of openings configured for exposing only a portion of an end surface of each of the working electrodes for forming the electrolytic surfaces on the working electrodes. Claim 48 has been amended to specify that a holder block has openings for receiving the array positioned such that a portion of the insert is exposed for forming the electrolytic surface thereon without exposing an end surface of a body of the working electrode.

Donne discloses an apparatus for synthesis and characterization of electrode materials. As shown in Fig. 2, the apparatus includes a base 10 configured to support a plurality of electrode holders 12. Working electrodes 22 are affixed to the electrode holders by screwing working electrode 22 into bore 24 of the holder. Working electrode 22 is counter-sunk into the electrode holder so that the working

electrode can be exposed to an electrolysis bath during deposition of a material on a top surface of the working electrode. In rejecting the claims, the Examiner refers to the base of Donne as a mask.

Donne does not disclose a mask having a plurality of openings configured for exposing only a portion of an end surface of each of the working electrodes, as set forth in amended claim 1. As shown in Fig. 2, the base exposes the entire end surface of the working electrode.

Also, Donne does not disclose a holder block having a plurality of openings for receiving working electrodes positioned such that a portion of an insert is exposed without exposing an end surface of a body of the working electrode, as set forth in amended claim 48.

Applicants' system is particularly advantageous in that it allows only a portion of the working electrode to be exposed so that processes can be performed on only the exposed portion. For example, the openings may be sized to expose only an insert of the working electrode so that a coating can be applied to the insert without being applied to a body of the electrode.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 48 are submitted as patentable over Donne.

Claims 2-28, depending either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and claims 49-51, depending directly from claim 48, are submitted as patentable over Donne for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claims 1 and 48.

The other references cited, including U.S. Patent Nos. 2,841,548 (Perlman), 6,423,193 (Miller et al.), and 5,120,421 (Glass et al.), do not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference.

IV. Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,



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